

Appl. No. 10/639,072
Amdt. dated Mar. 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of Dec. 16, 2004

REMARKS

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,408,388). Applicant traverses the rejection as follows:

Kobayashi et al is stated to disclose a planar illuminating device including a light source, a light guide plate having an incident surface for receiving light from the light source, a bottom surface and a light emitting surface for emitting the light, wherein the light emitting surface has a contour in a shape of a plurality of prisms disposed continuously on the light emitting surface.

Amended claim 1 now recites in pertinent part "wherein the light emitting surface has an mxn array of continuous uniform prisms disposed on the light emitting surface."

Applicant now traverses the rejection insofar as it applies to amended claim 1 as follows:

The backlight system of amended claim 1 comprises an mxn array of continuous uniform prisms disposed on the light emitting surface. In Kobayashi, the prisms are arranged in a row (or a column) (as shown in Fig. 1 & Fig. 4). That is, the structure of amended claim 1 is different from that of Kobayashi. Accordingly, amended claim 1 is submitted to be novel over Kobayashi.

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Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Amended claims 2, 4-5 depend directly from amended claim 1, and amended claims 7-8 depend indirectly from amended claim 1. Therefore claims 2, 4-5, and 7-8 should also be allowable.

Claims 9-10, 12 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,408,388).

Amended claim 9 now recites in pertinent part “wherein the light emitting surface has an mxn array of continuous uniform prisms disposed on the light emitting surface.”

Applicant now traverses the rejection insofar as it applies to amended claim 9 as follows:

The light guide plate of amended claim 9 comprises an mxn array of continuous uniform prisms disposed on the light emitting surface. In Kobayashi, the prisms are arranged in a row (or a column) (as shown in Fig. 1 & Fig. 4). That is, the structure of amended claim 9 is different from that of Kobayashi. Accordingly, amended claim 9 is submitted to be novel over Kobayashi.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 9 are respectfully requested.

Amended claim 10 and claim 12 depend directly from amended claim 9, and

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amended claims 14-15 depend indirectly from amended claim 9. Therefore claims 10, 12, and 14-15 should also be allowable.

Claims 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,408,388). Applicant traverses the rejection as follows:

Amended claim 16 now recites in pertinent part “a continuous mxn array of uniform, tapered prisms including respective vertex portions formed on the emitting surface.”

Applicant now traverses the rejection insofar as it applies to amended claim 16 as follows:

The backlight system of amended claim 16 comprises a continuous mxn array of uniform, tapered prisms including respective vertex portions formed on the emitting surface. In Kobayashi, the prisms are arranged in a row (or a column) (as shown in Fig. 1 & Fig. 4). That is, the structure of amended claim 16 is different from that of Kobayashi. Accordingly, amended claim 1 is submitted to be novel over Kobayashi.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 16 are respectfully requested.

Claim 17 depends directly from amended claim 16, and claim 18 depends indirectly from amended claim 16. Therefore claims 16 and 18 should also be allowable.

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Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 3, 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,408,388) in view of Teragaki et al. (U.S. Patent 6,123,431).

In response to this rejection, applicant traverses as follows:

Amended claims 3 and 6 depend directly from amended claim 1. As asserted above, amended claim 1 is novel over Kobayashi. Therefore amended claims 3 and 6 should also be allowable.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of amended claims 3 and 6 are respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,408,388) in view of Teragaki et al. (U.S. Patent 6,123,431).

In response to this rejection, applicant traverses as follows:

Claims 11 and 13 depend directly from amended claim 9. As asserted above, amended claim 9 is novel over Kobayashi. Therefore claims 11 and 13 should also be allowable.

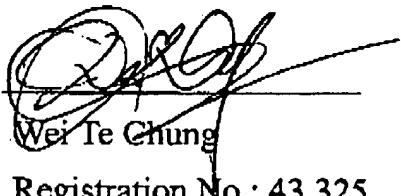
In view of the foregoing, the present application as claimed in the pending claims is considered to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect

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is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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